

(c) the details of comparative cost of spraying the target population area with BHC and the selected substitute;

(d) the total additional cost outlay on Malaria Control Programme due to switch over to substitute insecticide; and

(c) whether the additional cost is justified in comparison with the risk involved in the continued use of BHC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Benzene Hexa Chloride (BHC) is a potential environmental pollutant due to which its continued use as an insecticide has been banned after 31st March, 1997.

The alternative insecticide under the Public Health Programme is mainly Malathion 25% wp in areas where mosquitoes are resistant to BHC and DDT. However, in general the reliance on insecticides is to be replaced by safer bio-environmental methods and by encouraging the community to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes through education, example and deterrent measures where necessary.

(c) As per the Environment Assessment Report submitted by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, per capital cost for indoor residual spray with Malathion per annum is Rs. 36.12 as against Rs. 8.97 for BHC at the prices prevailing in 1996.

(d) and (e) BHC is a decentralised item to be procured mainly by the States. Intensive stratification of areas is being undertaken to reduce the use of spraying insecticides. Safer methods like use of larvivorous fish and medicated bet-nets are being tried out so that dependence on chemical larvicides reduces. It is too early to say what the substitution costs would be as this would depend on the efficacy of all the alternative strategies which are at various states of trial. In view of the potential hazards in the use of BHC, the extra costs spent on alternatives are justified.

T-72 Ajeya Tank

3466. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocations made for the T-72 (Ajeya) Tank project;

(b) whether there had been over-procurement of raw materials intentioned for the tanks;

(c) if so, the total number of machines/raw materials lying idle causing the exchequer huge loss of money;

(d) whether a large quantity of machines and raw materials failed to meet the quality standards;

(e) if so, whether quality control requirements have been ignored while placing the orders;

(f) if so, the estimated loss due to the machines not being put to use resulting in pilferage, etc.;

(g) whether the Government propose to appoint a high-level committee to unearth these large scale losses to the exchequer due to mismanagement; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The allocation is Rs. 412.25 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Do not arise in view of (b) to (f) above.

[Translation]

Ground Water Level

3467. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for increasing the ground water level; and

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal for providing financial assistance for the project prepared by them for ground water recharge in six Districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 3257.39 lakh. In addition, a scheme on Bolana Percolation Tank in Khandwa Distt. has also been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The State Government have been inform that the Government of India have prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Assisting the States in Ground Water Recharge on pilot basis. The Scheme is still at consultation stage. Financial assistance for some of the projects of the State Government can be considered after the Scheme is approved.

Planetariums

3468. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of planetariums set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to set up any planetarium in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts of South Bihar;